

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2000
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 10, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 2178

Introduced by Senator McPherson
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Keeley)

February 25, 2000

An act to add Section 14035.56 to, and to add and repeal Section 14035.57 of, the Government Code, relating to transportation, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2178, as amended, McPherson. Transportation: State Highway Route 17 bus feeder service: funding.

Existing law prohibits the Department of Transportation from providing funding to Amtrak for the purpose of entering into a contract with a motor carrier of passengers for the intercity transportation of passengers by motor carrier over regular routes unless prescribed conditions are met, including a requirement that service be provided only for passengers on trips where the passengers have had prior movement by rail or will have subsequent movement by rail, evidenced by a combination rail and bus one-way or roundtrip ticket.

This bill, until January 1, 2002, would exempt from the specified requirement service provided for passengers traveling by motor carrier over any regular route that operates on the portion of State Highway Route 17 between the City of Santa Cruz and the City of San Jose, if that service

begins not less than one hour prior to or not less than one hour after any regular service operated by any private motor carrier of passengers on that route or a similar route. *The bill would also exempt, until January 1, 2002, service provided for disabled passengers who rely substantially on the use of wheelchairs and travel by motor carrier over any regular route that operates on the above-described portion of Route 17.*

~~The bill would create in state government a Task Force on Highway 17 Bus Service for the purpose of require the department, in consultation with certain transportation entities, to prepare a report recommending long-term solutions to address the transportation needs of passengers traveling by bus on the specified route. The bill would require the task force to and submit a the report to the Legislature not later than July 31, 2001, and would specify the membership of the task force.~~

The bill would declare that it is take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14035.56 is added to the
 2 Government Code, to read:
 3 14035.56. (a) Paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of
 4 Section 14035.55 does not apply to ~~service~~ *either of the*
 5 *following:*
 6 (1) *Service* provided for passengers traveling by
 7 motor carrier over any regular route that operates on the
 8 portion of State Highway Route 17 between the City of
 9 Santa Cruz and the City of San Jose, if that service begins
 10 not less than one hour prior to or not less than one hour
 11 after any regular service operated by any private motor
 12 carrier of passengers on that route or a similar route.
 13 (2) *Service provided for disabled passengers who rely*
 14 *substantially on the use of wheelchairs and travel by*
 15 *motor carrier over any regular route that operates on the*
 16 *portion of highway described in paragraph (1).*

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2002, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, which is enacted before January 1, 2002, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. Section 14035.57 is added to the Government Code, to read:

~~14035.57. (a) There is hereby created in state government a Task Force on Highway 17 Bus Service. The task force shall be convened by the department and shall meet at least four times before June 30, 2001.~~

~~(b) This task force shall do all of the following:~~

~~(1)~~

14035.57. The department, in consultation with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Amtrak, representatives for persons with disabilities in the local community, and any other appropriate groups and entities, shall do all of the following:

(a) Deliver to the Legislature by July 31, 2001, a report recommending long-term solutions to address the transportation needs of passengers traveling by bus between the City of Santa Cruz and the City of San Jose on service operated substantially on State Highway Route 17. The report shall address the necessary funding and capital needs to provide this public transit service, and other operational requirements for additional public transit service on this route. The report shall also address ways that Amtrak, local public transit operators, and local private sector motor carriers of passengers may combine or package their respective services and facilities to the public as a means of improving services to the public.

~~(2)~~

(b) Consider all of the following when preparing the report:

~~(A)~~

(1) The necessity for the provision of additional service on this route by local public transit operators.

~~(B)~~

1 (2) The importance to the state of long-term
2 maintenance of private sector intercity passenger
3 service.

4 ~~(C)~~

5 (3) The needs of disabled passengers using bus service
6 on this route.

7 ~~(e) The task force shall consist of the following~~
8 ~~members:~~

9 ~~(1) Two representatives of motor carriers of~~
10 ~~passengers, appointed by the Senate Committee on~~
11 ~~Rules, including the motor carrier currently contracted~~
12 ~~by Amtrak to provide state-supported passenger rail~~
13 ~~feeder bus service between the City of Santa Cruz and~~
14 ~~the City of San Jose, and a motor carrier operating at least~~
15 ~~four trips per day along substantially the same route.~~

16 ~~(2) Two representatives of transportation labor~~
17 ~~unions, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.~~

18 ~~(3) A representative of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan~~
19 ~~Transit District.~~

20 ~~(4) A representative of the Santa Clara Valley~~
21 ~~Transportation Authority.~~

22 ~~(5) A representative of the Department of~~
23 ~~Transportation.~~

24 ~~(6) A representative of Amtrak.~~

25 ~~(7) A representative of disabled passengers utilizing~~
26 ~~bus service between the City of Santa Cruz and the City~~
27 ~~of San Jose.~~

28 SEC. 3. (a) Because of an immediate and specific set
29 of operating factors unique to the state-supported
30 passenger rail feeder bus service operated between the
31 City of Santa Cruz and the City of San Jose, and because
32 these unique factors have created a temporary hardship
33 for some of the passengers utilizing this service, the
34 Legislature finds and declares that it is necessary to enact
35 legislation to address this hardship and to appoint a task
36 force to develop and recommend to the Legislature a
37 plan to address the long-term needs of the communities
38 in this service area as well as the motor carriers of
39 passengers providing service in this service area.

1 (b) Due to the unique nature of the problem
2 described in subdivision (a), the Legislature further finds
3 and declares that a general statute cannot be made
4 applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV
5 of the California Constitution. Therefore, the special
6 legislation contained in this act is necessarily applicable
7 only to the bus service described herein.

8 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
9 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or
10 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the
11 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts
12 constituting the necessity are:

13 In order to address, at the earliest possible time, the
14 needs of commuters utilizing state-supported passenger
15 rail feeder bus service between the City of Santa Cruz
16 and the City of San Jose, it is necessary that this act take
17 effect immediately.

